GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2248
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
ACHIEVEMENT UNDER WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether various development programmes like Desert Development Programme (DDP),Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and IntegratedWasteland Development Projects (IWDP)are not deliveringthe desired results as reported in the `Statesman` dated 4 November, 2002.

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the lack of an integrated approach is causing a set-back in many programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make the programmes more effective ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The report in the newspaper is not in accordance with the facts. Impact Assessment Studies recently commissioned by the Ministry of Rural Development haverevealed that with the implementation of watershed based projects under DDP, DPAP & IWDP, there has been an improvement in productivity of community resources and quality of ruralllivelihood support systems in project areas.

(c) to (e) The Report of the Technical Committee on DPAP and DDP chaired by Prof.Hanumantha Rao, submitted in April, 1994 concluded that these programmes were being implemented in a fragmented manner without well designed plans prepared on watershed basis involving the inhabitants. However, since 1995-96, based on the Committee`s recommendations, these programmes are being implemented through common Guidelines following the integrated watershed approach through the institutionalized mechanisms of people`s participation and community empowerment. The Guidelines for Watershed Development were revised in the year 2001 to further reinforce the effectiveness of these programmes in the pfanning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation stages.